by Stan Gardner 1995

G226

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

In The Beginning

In 1907 the Missouri General Assembly passed a law creating the Missouri Library Commission - the forerunner of the Missouri State Library.

The idea for a Library Commission, however, goes back a little further. Records indicate that on December 18, 1900, at the behest of F.M Crunden, St. Louis Public Library, Carrie Westlake Whitney, Kansas City Public Library, C.E. Yeater, Sedalia Public Library, Purd B. Wright, St. Joseph Public Library and James T. Gerould, University Library, Columbia, several Missouri librarians and trustees of Missouri's public libraries met to form the Missouri Library Association.

Some of the topics discussed by these library pioneers included free public libraries, traveling libraries and school libraries. In general, the Association voted to pursue their objective "to promote the library interest of the State of Missouri." And to this effect a committee of three was elected to prepare and present to the General Assembly a bill proposing to establish a State Library Commission. One of the objectives of the Commission would be to establish public libraries in communities which had none. Another would be to send traveling libraries to remote communities to pave the way for future permanent, and self-supporting libraries. The Commission would also be responsible for encouraging and assisting small libraries which were not thriving and for establishing summer library courses to train librarians and assistants.

This movement towards the organization of a State Library Commission received an added boost from the lobbying activities of the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs.

Missouri, at the turn of the century, was home to some 3,000,000 people scattered over its approximately 69,000 square miles of territory. Many of these citizens were located in remote, rural pockets without easy access to the great centers of population - thus unable to utilize the many advantages offered by cities such as library services. In 1898 the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs took the first steps towards locating and helping these people by establishing the Traveling Libraries.

Under the aegis of these clubs, cases of 50 books each were placed in schools, clubs and homes across the state. Infact, the first Traveling Library was sent to Montrose, Henry County in March 1899. By November of that year there were seventeen libraries in circulation and by 1907 there

were twenty-six such libraries with approximately 1,150 volumes.

In 1907 when the 44th General Assembly of Missouri finally gave passage to Senate Bill 232 creating the Missouri Library Commission,and listed among its duties the purchase and management of Traveling Libraries, the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs generously presented to the Commission its collection of books and traveling cases. This became the foundation upon which the Commission began to build and develop into an active State Library extension agency providing various types of library services geared to meeting the recreational and educational needs of Missouri citizens.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS 1907 - 1916

The legislative act of 1907 creating the Missouri Library Commission also approved an initial appropriation of $5,000 a year, payable out of the State Revenue Fund. A later action made the appropriation in biennial amounts. The new legislation was approved by Governor Joseph W. Folk, March 20, 1907 and became effective ninety days after that date. In June, the Governor appointed five members to the Commission.

The earliest records of the Library Commission indicate that the first formal meeting was called by Governor Folk on September 14, 1907, at the executive office, at which time the newly appointed Commission elected a president, and discussed the work of the Library Commission and ways in which to accomplish their objectives. On October 15, 1907, the Commission opened its office in rooms assigned to it in the Capitol Annex in Jefferson City in a building formerly occupied by the Supreme Court. The Commission expended $3,565.51 of its appropriation for books in preparation for the task of organizing and circulating the Traveling Libraries.

Powers And Duties Of The New Library Commission

The Missouri Library Commission was comprised of three persons appointed by the Governor as well as the State Superintendent of Schools and the President of the State University. Their duties were to: (1) provide advice to all school, free and public libraries, and to all communities proposing to establish libraries; (2) purchase, cooperate and circulate traveling libraries across the state to Missouri communities, libraries, schools, colleges, universities, library associations, study clubs and charitable and penal institutions, at no cost except transportation charges; (3) conduct summer schools offering library instruction; (4) work with the state library board in caring for school districts; (5) assist teachers in

school library administration; (6) publish informative lists and circulars; (7) receive gifts of money, books or other property; and (8) be a clearinghouse for periodicals free to local libraries.

Traveling Libraries

Under the system established by the Commission, Traveling Libraries were loaned to communities upon request and if they were able to pay transportation costs. Because the popularity and demand for the traveling libraries had already been established by the efforts of the Federation of Women's Club, several libraries were dispatched as early as December 1907, and fourteen other requests were awaiting attention. A booklet describing the service, Traveling Libraries: What They Are And How To Secure Them, was prepared and ready for distribution by 1908. And by 1908, the Commission had available a total collection of 5,000 volumes.

During its second year, the Commission devoted much of its time and efforts towards organizing and preparing for circulation its newly acquired volumes. Two assistants were employed to do the work of cataloging and listing which required the use of Library of Congress Cards whenever possible. Simple cataloging was done for the general collection while the volumes for school sets received full analytical work and cards were ordered in duplicate. Graded traveling libraries, covering eight years of the required school course, were assembled; a small card catalog of author, title, and subject cards in dictionary order was sent with each graded library. These catalogs were sent to serve as an example for making similar catalogs in small school libraries. A total of 144 traveling libraries were circulated in 1908.

Extension Work

The Commission had been authorized to give advice to libraries and communities desiring libraries; in 1908 the Commission began this work by means of personal visits when and where possible. Initially called advisory work, this service was later referred to as field or extension service and ranged from giving speeches to community groups to offering technical assistance to struggling libraries.

Library interest continued to grow and within the next couple of years the Commission was flooded with requests for assistance in the development of libraries throughout the state. Plagued by financial limitations right from the start, no regular field organizer had been employed by the Commission. When in 1914, forty-seven school libraries asked for assistance in the systematic arrangement of their books, the help was provided by means of typewritten

explanations detailing the process of classification, card indexing, and charging systems.

Other forms of library extension work included lectures on library skills and various library topics as well as some on story telling; organization of a library department for the Missouri State Teachers' Association; development of the first Missouri summer library school in cooperation with the St. Louis Public Library. In 1912, 1914 and 1916, the Commission together with the University of Missouri and the St. Louis Public Library conducted a library course as part of the summer school.

Exhibitions of traveling libraries were made at the State Fair in 1908, 1909 and 1910. Similar exhibitions were held in 1911 and 1912 at various county fairs. In 1915 the Missouri Library Commission sent an exhibition of books by Missouri authors to the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The Commission staff recorded a total of 216 site visits from 1907 - 1916 a sure evidence of the continually growing interest in libraries.

Legislative Library

In 1909, the Forty-fifth General Assembly passed House Bill 173, creating the library of the General Assembly which consisted of the legislative journals and State documents of Missouri, and collections of pamphlets and reports on various subjects of interest to the legislature. This act constituted the start of the legislative reference work done by the Library Commission. Supervised by the Secretary of the Commission, the General Assembly library was directly under the control of the House and Senate during the legislative sessions otherwise in charge of the Commission.

In 1911, the Commission maintained and published an Index of of Bills presented at each session of the General Assembly. In November 1912, using its own funds, the Commision hired a clerk to do preliminary work for the next legislative session. About 125 requests on 75 different subjects were received from 45 legislators. Twelve hundred pamphlets and reports on legislative subjects were collected and the resources of the Missouri Supreme Court were utilized in answering some of the questions of the legislators.

Starting in 1913, the Index was issued on a cumulative basis - each weekly number combining all entries up to date. Prepared by the Commission, the printing of the index was provided for by order of the House of Representatives. Duplicates of bills presented were kept on file for future reference, and the legislature approved the distribution of sets of bills to public libraries wishing to avail themselves of the service. Files of bills were sent to The National Legislative Information Service, the Public Affairs

Information Service and the Legislative Reference Department of the Texas State Library. Additionally, separate lists of bills were sent to institutions and individuals. Cooperation with legislative reference departments of other states provided valuable information for the legislative reference library collection.

In 1914, no attempt was made to develop the legislative library collection. Subscriptions were maintained and cataloged as were any pamphlets received. Bulletins of the Public Affairs Information Service were clipped and maintained also. In December of 1914 a librarian was employed to prepare for the upcoming session. And during the session he was put on the General Assembly's payroll and assigned a clerk to work with him. They remained for one month after the close of the legislative session to organize the collection.

It was the initial initiative which the Commission demonstrated in compiling an index of bills to provide information on subjects before the General Assembly which led to the creation of the legislative library. Realizing the importance and value of this service to the legislature, the Commission began to give serious consideration to extending this work, making it continuous rather than confining it to the few months of the biennial sessions.

The Library Messenger

In 1913, the Commission began to publish a bulletin entitled the Library Messenger. This was designed to be a medium of communication between libraries in Missouri. Although only one issue appeared that year it was hoped that this form of communication would be continued in the years to follow.

A Noteworthy Occurrence

On February 5, 1911, the Capitol Building was destroyed by fire, and the Commission was forced to move from the Capitol Annex and establish a temporary office in the basement of the local public library. Lack of space resulted in another move into rooms in the Hess Building on the corner of High and Washington Streets.

In March 1913 the Commission moved back into the Capitol Annex, but less than a month later, it was ordered out in favor of the Public Utilities Commission. A house on Washington Street, owned by the state, became the new headquarters.

Some Growth Statistics

During its first ten years, the Missouri Library Commission showed a steady progress in its two main directions of work,

that is, the circulation of books in rural districts and the encouragement of public libraries. Statistics gathered for the Commission's first annual report revealed that there were eighteen public libraries (seventeen owning the buildings) and by 1916 the number had increased to fifty-seven public libraries with twenty-nine owning the buildings.

Twelve traveling library stations in 1907 had increased to two hundred and seventy-seven in 1916. Of these, several were shipping points for rural schools and unincorporated communities so the actual number of places receiving traveling libraries in 1916 amounted to four hundred and three. During the first ten years, every county in Missouri had received at least one traveling library. The total number of libraries sent out by the Commission from October 1907 to December 1916, was 2,864, an average of 286 per year. These libraries represented a total of 107,762 volumes.

Annual library surveys conducted by the Library Commission indicated that by 1916, Missouri communities found it easier to obtain support for free public libraries. Of the 42 public libraries which regularly reported to the Commission, 19 were supported by citizens without the the aid of a tax levy. Other statistics of the libraries making continuous reports during 1907 - 1915 show a total registration of 85,519 borrowers; a book-stock of 423,889 volumes; and a circulation of 1,329,977.

The Commission's Conclusion in 1916

In an overview of its work during the past decade, the Missouri Library Commission declared its most creditable achievements to be the circulation of traveling libraries and in encouraging the establishment of libraries throughout the state. In a clear-eyed observation, the Commission noted the needs of the future included large-scale rural extension work conducted by field organizers, and a further systematization of the legislative reference work.

The efforts of the first decade had paved the way for the next and the only forseeable constraints were those placed by any future appropriation limitations.

THE LIBRARY WAR SERVICE IN MISSOURI

The Missouri Library Commission and the libraries of Missouri joined forces with the national effort to provide two vital services during World War I. They provided books to the soldiers and sailors and also provided information to the civilian population.

The Library War Service campaign by the American Library

Association was organized to allow each state to direct its own fund raising and book and magazine collecting efforts. During August and September of 1917, many public libraries became collection centers. By September of 1917, Missouri libraries had raised $21,634.01 as its contribution towards the Library War Service's campaign fund. Equally successful was their Book Campaign and by March 1918, 82,787 books were ready to be shipped to various training camps across the nation.

In 1918, the Library War Services inaugurated another fundraising campaign for camp libraries and overseas service. At the same time a national call to join the United War Work campaign was issued. Missouri donated $5,445,406.22 - of which the Library War Service received $111,630.

Missouri Library Commission's Participation

In Missouri, the Secretary of the Commission undertook the management of the campaigns for books and money. By July of 1917, the libraries in Missouri began collecting from their patrons gifts of books for camp libraries. Initially a local endeavor to supply the home town boys with books as the local companies departed for training camps, it gradually became a general effort to collect books for the soldiers.

Later, during the campaign for money, the Commission sent weekly letters to public libraries and college libraries that were open, soliciting funds; the responses were generous.

That same year the United States Department of Agriculture requested the cooperation of libraries in publicizing government information. Chairing the library publicity committee, the Commission's Secretary worked to make every library in Missouri a distribution point. Hundreds of letters and pamphlets on food conservation were sent to libraries every week. The circulation of food information was extended to 1918 and fifty-six Missouri libraries agreed to distribute food pamphlets directly to their patrons.

The Library Messenger which had first been published in 1913 became the vehicle of communication for the Commission. Information about the book, fund campaigns, suggestions for promoting food conservation and war information were featured items. The participation of Missouri libraries in these activities put a new and different interpretation on the purpose of the public library.

At the end of the war the books for the soldiers, many on vocational subjects, were distributed to Library Commissions. The Missouri Library Commission received 5,750

volumes, and many of these books were made into traveling libraries which were then loaned to American Legion posts in towns without library service. Some books were sent to Veterans' Hospitals. In other cases, booklists were forwarded directly to men requesting them so they could make their selections. In these ways the Commission was fairly successful in providing vocational books to the returning soldiers.

Regular Activities During The War

On November 20, 1917, the Missouri Library Commission moved yet again. This time to offices in the new Capitol Building where the Commission was assigned three rooms at the north end of the west corridor on the ground floor. Also provided was an inside stack-room and storage room opening on the south corridor. Beneath that was a large basement room to be used for packing and shipping. (Shelving for the stack-room was installed in August 1918.)

That same year the General Assembly withdrew its appropriation for the Legislative Reference Department, leaving it without financial resources to employ a librarian. Already overburdened with the additional work caused by the Library War Service, the Commission found it impossible to assume this service. But the popularity and value of this service compelled the Commission to finance the salary of an assistant for two months - hoping that the General Assembly would be induced to reimburse the money.

By 1917, the invaluable legislative work had grown considerably. From a simple classified list, the Index of Bills was a definite subject list and each bill was entered under an appropriate law heading and also under the specific subject word. In August 1918, the Commission employed a librarian to begin work in September and continue through the next biennial legislative period. At the close of 1919, the legislative department issued a digest of all bills passed and signed by the governor. One thousand copies were not enough to satisfy the demand.

During the war, Missouri libraries were faced with a challenge, and a new dimension was added to library service. Responding to the request of the federal government and the needs of the people, Missouri libraries became centers of current information for the public. The Commission met the challenge of supervising this service. More people became aware of what libraries could do for them. As a result of providing books to service men and information to civilians, Missouri libraries made new friends and supporters. This, the Commission hoped, would be the stepping stone for the public libraries to finally come into their own.

THE NEXT 15 YEARS 1920 - 1935

Library development in Missouri suffered a slight setback during the war years. Involved in the Library War Service, Missouri libraries directed their efforts towards raising funds and collecting books for camps, training centers and overseas service. Finally, with peace came a golden opportunity for library development as communities, citizens and new friends in the service recognized and lauded the library's war record. Several communities started making plans for public libraries and interest was generated in a county library which would serve the entire county - rural and urban.

County Libraries

In 1921 a county library bill was introduced in the House and in the Senate. It was referred to the House Committee on Libraries and the Senate Committee on Education. After some initial opposition and rephrasing, the bill passed the House, then the Senate on the last day of the session, and was signed by Governor Hyde on March 29, 1921. This bill made it mandatory for any county commission, upon the petition of 100 voters, to submit to the voters the county library proposition.

The Commission had endorsed the county library as an efficient and economical type of library service for Missouri, and even prepared several mimeographed articles encouraging the founding of such county libraries. Many inquiries were received as well as requests for a speaker to further explain the subject. But the Commission's limited financial resources rendered it impossible to provide the professional library service that was needed. And in 1928 Missouri still did not have a county library while all the bordering states had succeeded in establishing such libraries.

Publicity For The Missouri Library Commission

To stimulate the interest of Missourians in the many library services available, the Commission began to issue, in mimeograph form, information on library technique and the establishment of libraries. Mimeographed applications for traveling libraries were mailed to parent-teachers associations, country preachers, county agricultural agents, county superintendents and state legislators; and cards stating opportunities offered by the Commission and inviting inquiries were distributed to former, and prospective borrowers through the cooperation of local banks in towns without public libraries. News articles were sent to each county newspaper and the associated press detailing the Commission's work and highlighting library activities throughout the state. The State Marketing Bureau allowed

space in its Bulletin, thereby calling the attention of its readers to the service offered by the Commission - that of providing books on agriculture and other pertinent subjects to farmers.

The Library Messenger, first published in 1913, continued to be the official communication tool until 1922. In 1926, it was replaced by a mimeographed News Letter issued monthly at first and then on a quarterly basis. This medium of communication continued till 1935. Also in 1926, the Commission secretary gave some radio talks on books, the Commission and its purpose, and told some stories for the children's hour.

Publicity efforts continued for a few years and the results were measurable. The number of books loaned jumped from 14,955 in 1920 to 38,867 in 1926, and to 60,301 in 1932 - the maximum circulation in one year up to that point.

Although the original purpose of the Commission was to send traveling libraries to clubs, community organizations and schools in the rural districts of Missouri, insistent demands by citizens in those areas resulted in individual loans becoming one of the major services given by the Commission. Individual requests increased annually till 1930, when three-fourths of all requests were for loans to individuals; in 1934 one-half were individual requests. In 1932, 19,318 of the 60,301 volumes circulated were issued to individuals. Obviously, the citizens of the state were clamouring for library service!

The Commission Relocates Again

In 1929, the needs of the Commission were same as in previous years...more books, more library assistants to perform the circulation tasks, and definitely a field assistant to handle the many requests from school and public libraries seeking organizational help for their libraries. In the midst of all these needs, the Commission was asked to vacate their office across the stack room, and move to another on the fourth floor. The office space was larger, but the distance from the stacks and shipping room was a major drawback to efficient and economical shipping service.

The Status Of The Legislative Library

Created in 1909, the Legislative Reference Library was placed under the control of the House and Senate during the sessions of the General Assembly, and under the Secretary of the Library Commission at other times. In 1912 the Commission employed a Legislative Librarian from November 1st to December 31st to conduct preliminary data-gathering work necessary to serve the needs of the legislators during the sessions. A House resolution in 1915 allowed a salary

for the services of the Legislative Librarian through the biennial session. However, this support was withdrawn in 1917 leaving the Commission to pay for librarian services out of its own funds. The Commission continued this policy for a few years.

In 1920, a bill providing for the establishment of a permanent and adequate Legislative Reference Library was introduced in the House where it passed, but was killed in the Senate. In November 1931 it was found that state revenue would be twenty-six percent lower than estimated. The result was a drastic forty percent reduction in the Commission's budget for 1932. The Commission was forced to forego the services of the Legislative Librarian. Legislative work limped along; the library itself became woefully inopertive except during the legislative session when the Commission's Secretary did work as time permitted.

The Missouri Library Commission Finances

Since its creation in 1907 the Missouri Library Commission had waged an uphill battle for increased appropriations. Records indicate that the Commission's first biennial appropriation was $10,000. Appropriations increased to $15,430 for the 1915 biennium and eventually to $32,100 for the 1931 biennium - the maximum appropriation for a biennium up till that time. But in November of 1931 it was found that the state revenue would be twenty-six percent less than estimated and some of the state departments would have to operate on a reduced budget for the remainder of the biennium. The Missouri Library Commission was one of the beneficiaries of the budget cut! Its budget for 1932 was reduced by forty percent effecting a reduction in funds for books, periodicals and office equipment. A general cut in salaries allowed the Commission to keep the staff intact and continue its work despite the many handicaps. It is interesting to note that it was in 1932 that the Commission reached the peak in all phases of its library service! The staff was able to answer 10,159 requests.

The 1933 biennial appropriation was $10,862.50 - $5,431.25 for each year! This time salary cuts could not keep the staff intact. From seven members in 1933, the Commission dropped to three staff members in 1934.

The circulation had increased steadily from 1920 when it was 14,955 to 1932 when there were 60,301 books sent out...the result of the publicity campaign started in 1920. In 1934 however, the circulation dropped to 30,241, lower than it had been in 1925. With the Commission staff limited to three members, the individual loans in 1934 were severely reduced and emphasis was again placed on the package and traveling libraries.

The Commission Faces A Crisis

In 1933 the General Assembly attempted to completely abolish the Missouri Library Commission. House Bill No. 5 was introduced with the intention of immediately stopping all work and putting into storage all books and equipment. For the next three months, the very existence of the Commission hung in jeopardy.

House Bill 5 was first read on January 17, 1933; it was read for the second time on January 19, 1933 and then referred to the House Committee on Consolidations and Boards. The committee recommended the bill be passed. It was later amended in the House, with the consent of the Governor, to repeal the original law, but transfer the Commission's functions to the Board of the Permanent Seat of Government. Later, the Governor approved an amendment to transfer the functions to the curators of the University of Missouri. This Senate Committee amendment transferred the property to the University but it did not include a provision for carrying on the work.

Fortunately for the Commission there were friends of the library in the legislature. House Bill 5 failed to pass even though it was brought up a second time!

But the Commission's problems did not end. The Senate Appropriations Committee wanted to give the Commission an appropriation that would only extend to April 30, 1933. Although this move did not pass, the House appropriation of $15,000 was cut to $13,540 and the reduced figure then passed both House and Senate. However, disaster had not been completely averted. Upon request of the Governer, the Chairman of the Senate Appropriation Committee was called in to help reduce all the state appropriations. And the Commission suffered another cut. The final appropriation figure approved was only $862.50 more than the amount provided in 1907 when the Commission was first organized.

In a sense the crisis was not averted, the situation was simply less crucial!

Weathering the Financial Crunch

The financial crunch left the Commission with a large circulation built up through its years of service, and simultaneously the problem of trying to figure out where its service might be curtailed. The staff had been significantly reduced and for a short period in April of 1933, no books were sent out. During December thirty-one requests for traveling libraries could not be filled. Previously in November, thirty-three requests had been delayed because a staff of only three simply did not have time to answer them. Total circulation in 1933 decreased by 7,193 books. By 1934

the staff was down to the Commission Secretary and a shipping clerk.

Fortunately assistance was obtained through the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Federal Emergency Rlief Administration (FERA) in the form of personnel.

Later when the CWA aid was withdrawn, the Commission decided to discontinue service to individuals, schools and communities until September when traveling library service to communities and schools was resumed. In September new workers were obtained through the FERA office.

Circulation decreased over forty percent in 1934. With few replacements or additions being made, time was given to repairing books especially since FERA had provided the services of several book menders. However, FERA services were terminated on February 1, 1935.

After the passage of the 1935 appropriation of $15,594, the Commission was able to employ a reference librarian and a cataloger and begin to slowly get back to normal. In 1935 2,756 requests from individuals were answered in addition to requests from communities, schools, and study clubs. Although 650 books were added to the collection, making a total of 36,021 volumes, the unpreventable neglect of the previous few years left the collection in dire need of rebuilding.

The full service of the Library Commission had been crippled with the threat of abolishment followed by the drastic appropriation reductions. The tenacity of the Commision and the help from FERA and CWA however saved most of the vital features of the Commission's work.

The Missouri Library Commission concluded 1935 in hopeful anticipation of more adequate support of its work by the General Assembly. It was expected that the General Assembly would give favorable consideration to the state-wide plan known as the State Library Plan of Missouri which was adopted by the Missouri Library Association and by the Missouri Library Commission.

MISSOURI LIBRARY COMMISSION ACTIVITIES 1936-1946

As it slowly emerged from the period of decline, one of the objectives of the Commission became the establishment of a weekly radio broadcast. The purpose was to publicize the free public library interests of the state. This idea had been presented at the state convention of the Missouri Library Association by the president of the Library Commission, with an invitation for the Library Association to participate in the plans and programs. The idea was accepted.

Radio Broadcasts

Through the courtesy of radio station KFRU in Columbia, "The Children's Hour" program was broadcast weekly in 1936. The programs had a wide range of speakers -- librarians, teachers, clergymen, publicists, writers, and professional reviewers. The programs were a success and attracted state and national interest; the Adult Education Department of the American Library Association asked for copies of some of the scripts.

The weekly radio broadcast program was greatly expaned in 1937. The Library Commission and the Missouri Library Association cooperated to produce some excellent programs which were broadcast over six stations - KWOS, Jefferson City; KFRU, Columbia; KFEQ, St. Joseph; KMBC, Kansas City; KGBX, Springfield; and KMOX, St. Louis. These stations covered the entire state of Missouri.

With the continuing success of the weekly broadcasts, other stations joined the program: in 1938, KHPE, Cape Girardeau; in 1939, KWOC, Poplar Bluff; and in 1940, WTAD, Hannibal. Radio power was becoming an effective publicity tool in generating public interest in education and libraries.

Book Service

Statistics compiled from library reports across the state indicated there were over 1.7 million people in Missouri without library service. And these were the people to whom the Commission wanted to extend its service by sending books directly to individuals; by sending communities libraries to circulated locally; and by sending packages or groups to schools for the school year. Many small libraries also depended on the Library Commission to provide titles they could not afford or obtain. Indeed the Missouri Library Commission had many obligations to fulfill.

Book service was revived starting in 1936 when 8,237 requests were answered - an increase of 2,472 over 1935. There were 50,175 books mailed out, an increase of 9,361 over the preceding year. And by 1939, 55,015 books were shipped in response to 9,617 requests.

Progress was underway. By 1939 the number of persons without library service had been reduced to 1.6 million. And in order to continue this progress it was imperative to maintain a strong central book collection.

The Commission Moves Again

The books, stacks and office of the Commission were moved to the new state office building during the week of December

15, 1938, thus disrupting the work of filling book requests for about ten days when books were not accessible.

Extension Librarian

An improvement in financial resources allowed the Commission to employ an Extension Librarian in 1937. For the first time in its history, the Commission was in some small measure able to fulfill one of its mandates, to "give advice to all schools, free and other public libraries, and to all communities, which may propose to establish them as to the best means of establishing and maintaining such libraries, the selection of books, cataloging and other detail of library management."

In the first three months, the Extension Librarian visited 110 libraries in fifty-two counties. Also during this period one small library was organized in New Haven, another reorganized in Versailles, two district meetings of the Federation of Women's Clubs were attended and six talks were given to various organizations! In 1941 the extension service expanded into a series of six library institutes (held for the first time since 1922) primarily concerned with book purchasing and library budgets. And by 1944 it was possible for the Extension Librarian to begin the laborious task of helping to establish efficient and economic library service in rural areas.

Intensive work was done by the Commission's Secretary and the Extension Librarian to promote county library development. During campaigns, counties were advised to form county library committees. Commission staff members gave talks and made presentations. Often a film depicting county library service was shown. Publicity materials (posters, pamphlets, mimeographed letters, newspaper articles, and radio announcements) were provided by the Commission.

The Commission And The Works Progress Administration

The Missouri Library Commission was approached by the Women's Division of the Works Progress Administration to sponsor a state-wide library project which was approved and inaugurated in 1938. Prior to this time there had been a number of certified W.P.A. workers performing clerical work and repairing books in public libraries around Missouri; the only objective then was to give people employment. Also, a few public library units, unsupervised by professionals, had been started by W.P.A.

The W.P.A. office in Washington approved and transferred $386,121.20 in funds to the state office. The project included all the existing W.P.A. library units and also established new ones. The professional objectives of the

W.P.A. projects were to supply much needed clerical assistance to established libraries and to demonstrate the Commission's plans for the future development of library services in Missouri. The project supplied trained technical supervisors and a state supervisor to oversee the project.

Activities such as demonstrations of county-wide library service conducted by the W.P.A. library supervisors were directly responsible for a surge in campaigns for county libraries. The first demonstration in Lafayette County quickly led to more in two other counties. Although none had been successful in voting in a county library, public interest had been stimulated. The W.P.A. had purchased 2,192 volumes for the first demonstration and by the end of 1939 the number had doubled.

The sponsorship of the state-wide library project under the Works Progress Administration was renewed for another year at its expiration in June, 1940. The purpose of the W.P.A. was to supplement the extension activities of the Library Commission and to carry out the general policies of library development advocated by the Library Commission. Each of the five W.P.A. districts were operating smoothly under the supervision of professional librarians and several well organized units of library service were established. The Commission loaned 4,202 volumes to those units during 1940 which added to the initial loan of 3,328 came to a total of 7,530 volumes loaned.

County library demonstrations were carried on in four counties in 1940. Personnel and books were furnished by the W.P.A. for the use of each county system. And the book resources of the Commission were stretched to cover the demand.

The state-wide library project under the W.P.A. ended on February 1, 1943, and federally owned books used for the project were distributed to libraries across Missouri. The most outstanding accomplishment of this project was the establishment of the Platte County Library in 1942...a milestone in library development!

Library Service During World War II

When the United States entered World War II, the nation's libraries were once again called into service. On January 12, 1942, a national Victory Book Campaign was inaugurated to collect gifts of books for the men in service. Under the guidance of the American Library Association, the American Red Cross, and the USO, this campaign sought ten million books to supplement the government's existing library facilites for soldiers. Books on technical information, current afairs, and good fiction were needed.

The Secretary of the Library Commission was appointed director of the Victory Campaign in Missouri. Librarians were asked to publicize the campaign, collect and sort the books. And during the first year of the campaign, over 188,00 books were collected in Missouri.

Citizen Interest

The Missouri Library Commission received two gifts which demonstrated the interest and genuine concern of the citizens of Missouri in libraries and library development.

In 1944, the T. J. Moss Company of St. Louis announced its intention to donate to the Commission a bookmobile fully stocked with a representative collection of new books. The bookmobile was formally accepted by Governor Phil M. Donnelly at a dedication ceremony in 1946. The value of this generous gift became apparent within the next few months. The bookmobile was exhibited in more than fifty counties to demonstrate how a county system of library service could serve its residents. During the first three months of the year, the bookmobile traveled over ten thousand miles and was viewed by over 300,000 people. The bookmobile, especially in the rural areas, never failed to generate in people a determination to secure library service, hopefully featuring a bookmobile

Soon after, the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs, the Missouri Farm Bureau Federation's Home and Community Department and Beta Sigma Phi (an organization of young business women) pledged three additional bookmobile units for demonstration use.

The second gift received by the Commission in 1944 was donated by a Dr. J. O. Rankin, of Hayti, Missouri. It was a film depicting county library service which could be used to promote the grown and development of good library service in Missouri - an excellent publicity and extension service tool.

Some Conclusions In 1946

When the Sixty-Fourth General Assembly ended in 1946, the Missouri Library Commission was faced with increased demand for library service to communities without library service, to schools, to study clubs, to individuals, and to libraries in the state. Within the past eighteen months 15,434 questions and requests for library service were received and answered and 94,768 volumes dispatched in response to the inquiries.

Requests for library service covered all the fields of knowledge. Borrowers asked for light, recreational reading materials as well as books on world affairs, international

relations, technology, business, health, politics, community planning and more. Publicity, extension work, and the war had all combined to generate a thirst for knowledge in people. Due to lack of library facilities in the rural communities, this thirst could only be quenched by library service provided by the Commission.

Library board members in communities sought planning help for the remodeling and renovation of library buildings as well for planning new library buildings.

In 1945, eight Missouri counties brought the propositions for the establishment of a county library to a vote. The vote was successful in Clark and Jackson counties, but in the April 1946 election, nine of the twelve counties submitting the propositions to establish county libraries achieved a successful vote. The movement for a tax-supported county library was on its way.

In 1942, Platte County established the first county library in the state and by the end of 1946 eleven other counties were in the process of organizing their county libraries! And out of 114 counties only one did not have any library service.

Statistical summaries compiled by the Commision in 1946 showed:

Population with library service.....	2,092,382
Population without library service...	1,692,282
Volumes in libraries.....	2,805,496
Tax-supported libraries.....	96
Non-tax supported libraries.....	86

State Library Plan Affects Missouri Library Commission

On November 7, 1935, the Missouri Library Association adopted a state library plan for Missouri. According to this plan the state would assume responsibility for the establishment and maintenance of adequate educational and library facilities for all its citizens. The plan called for a central library agency with regional branches, deposit stations, and book truck service; it suggested that the Missouri Library Commission could become this agency by being reorganized and enlarged. The plan further declared that the state should supplement local budgets.

On July 10, 1946, Senate Bill No. 369 was signed by Governor Donnelly, and the Missouri Library Commission became the Missouri State Library. The act creating the Missouri Library Commission was repealed, and the Missouri State Library was established as a part of the Missouri Department of Education. All the powers, duties, and functions of the

Commission were transferred to the State Library. Additionally, the State Library was empowered to create regional branches and to give bookmobile service.

Senate Bill 369 also provided for state aid to libraries. The state library was organized to give public library and adult education service, school library service, institutional library service and public documents service. Finally, the bill provided for a State Librarian, necessary personnel, and the State Library Advisory Board. The board was to be composed of the president of the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the Librarian of the University of Missouri, and two other persons appointed by the governor. The function of the board was to review the work of the state library.

Conclusion

The Missouri Library Commission, judged by its own objectives, was unable to make significant progress during its thirty-nine years of existence. Despite its many efforts, the Commission was financially unable to work toward achieving some of its most important objectives.

The State Library Commission had been authorized to start public libraries in communities which had none, and to foster and assist existing libraries. The traveling library was intended to pave the way for a future permanent, and self-supporting library - instead it provided the only library service to many Missouri communities and individuals for years.

Travel funds were frequently minimal - even non-existent, and the salary fund was too small to hire a full-time Extension Librarian until 1937.

Ironically, Missouri law proved to be an obstacle to the establishment of libraries in the state. Library service had to be established under existing law, and during the Commission's existence, Missouri was governed by a state constitution adopted in 1875. That constitution limited the amount a city or county could tax itself for general revenue expenses. In the laws governing the establishment of library service in either a city or county, a limitation of two mills on the dollar was placed upon the amount that could be voted, and any amount voted had to come out of the general revenue fund. In many cases, it was impossible to add the cost of library service to a city or county budget because evry cent was allocated already to specific purposes.

In 1946, Missouri had a new state constitution and the Missouri State Library replaced the Missouri Library Commission. It was the beginning of a new and promising era

in library development for Missouri. Although the Commision did not accomplish its primary goals, it served the best that it could and made a beginning in many areas that can be traced to the functions of the Missouri State Library today.

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY

In 1946 an important piece of legislation enacted by the Sixty-third General Assembly changed the name of the Missouri Library Commission to the Missouri State Library, making it the official library agency of the State. The Missouri State Library was to function under direct appropriation made by the General Assembly to operate the state library in Jefferson City, to provide bookmobile service to rural Missouri, and distribute grants-in-aid to local libraries.

The government of the State Library was vested in a State Library Advisory Board consisting of five members, two appointed by the Governor for eight-year terms, and three ex officio members: the Commissioner of Education; the Librarian of the University of Missouri; and the President of the State Board of Education. And instead of the Secretary of the Commission, there would be a State Librarian who would also serve as Secretary to the Board.

Along with this change of name came a redefinition of the functions of the agency and the State Library was empowered with the responsibility to set up services in for major fields of library activity: public libraries and adult education, school library services, institutional library services and document services.

The County Library Law of Missouri had been passed in 1921 and it was 1942 before a successful vote for a county-wide library tax was passed in Platte County. By 1950 74 per cent of Missouri citizens received regular library service through one of the 112 municipal, 26 county, or 4 regional libraries!

State Aid To Public Libraries

Acting under the commitment made in the 1945 constitution, the General Assembly passed an act providing State Aid to tax-supported public libraries. Local tax-supported libraries established and maintained under the laws of the state were eligible to receive financial assistance from the state. On June 30, 1951, seventy-five municipal and thirty county and regional libraries were receiving State Aid grants.

One-half of the State Aid appropriation was allocated on a population basis to all tax-supported libraries organized under the library laws. The balance of the appropriation

was allocated to county and regional libraries on a population basis for two purposes: first, establishment grants to new libraries; and second, equalization grants to libraries in which a one-mill tax levy did not yield one dollar per capita.

State Aid allocations enabled local libraries to remain open to the public for longer service hours, to employ better qualified librarians, to purchase more library materials, and to improve library facilities. The result was a general improvement in library service throughout the state.

A New Law

A new law in 1955 placed the government of the State Library in the hands of a Commission of six members. Four members serving four-year staggered terms, were appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate. The Commissioner of Education and the Librarian of the State University were ex officio members. Commission members received a $10.00 per diem in addition to their necessary traveling expenses when attending board meetings. The State Librarian, a graduate librarian with administrative experience, was appointed by the Commission and required to also serve as Secretary to the Commission.

Under this 1955 law, the Commission was responsible for surveying services given by libraries receiving state grants-in-aid, coordinating library service in the state, publishing an annual report on library services in the state, providing consultant services on library matters to local libraries and communities establishig local service, administering and allocating state grants-in-aid to local libraries, and operating a library at the state capital for government employees, officials, out-state citizens and local libraries.

Functions Of The State Library

The original purpose of the Library Commission - to circulate free books, as far as it was able, to local citizens and communities where there was no public library facility - was still being fulfilled in 1955 but to a much greater extent. As a result of the changes in the law, the library in Jefferson City furnished direct library service to Missouri citizens without local libraries and to state government officials and employees. Its resources were used extensively by existing local libraries across the state.

The State Library was also responsible for developing adequate and effective state-wide public library service; highly qualified personnel in libraries; proper financial support; and effective coordination of existing library facilities and services. Services of professional library

consultants were offered to state institutions, public schools, local communities, libraries and organizations.

The State Library Services

The State Library served as the only public library for 693,771 Missourians, or 18 per cent of the state's ppopulation who lived in areas without any public library facilities. Books, magazines, pamphlets, art reproductions, pictures, phonogrph records, films and filmstrips were sent by mail, freight, express, truck and bookmobile to individuals, clubs, communities, schools and state institutions.

Citizens or libraries were furnished answers to their book-connected problems and questions. Thousands of books were borrowed from other libraries over the nation for the use of Missourians.

On June 30, 1959, the state library had a collection of 182,736 books, exclusive of periodicals, pamphlets and government documents. During 1958 over 295,000 books and other library materials were circulated to library borrowers.

Library consultants were available for help and advice with all library problems in local communities, schools and libraries. These consultants advised and assisted local communities wanting to establish libraries.

County and regional library service was developing rapidly - infact, it had become the prevailing pattern of growth since 1945. Libraries were larger and wealthier and able to offer more services at lower costs. In 1942, Missouri had one county library in Platte County. Five years later, in 1947, there were 29 county libraries. In 1952, there were 38, and in 1959 there were 61. Each library was supported by a one-mill county tax.

For economy in operation and beter services, counties frequently associated themselves with neighboring counties to establish regional libraries. In 1959 there were eleven regional libraries composed of 30 counties.

To keep librarians and the trustees of local libraries abreast of the newest state and national developments in the librry world, a monthly news magazine called Show-Me Libraries was published by the State Library. It also published an annual report which included facts and figures of all public, school, college, and special libraries within the state. As an aid to official agencies and departments and individual citizens, as well as libraries, the State Library published biennially a Checklist Of Official Missouri Publications.

Bookmobile Service

In 1947, the General Assembly began making an appopriation for Demonstration Bookmobile Service to those areas of Missouri without public libraries or with very limited library service.

The Demonstration Bookmobile Service was a complete traveling library organization that could render a good facsimile of complete public library service. Consisting of a bookmobile, staffed by a professional librarian and two assistants, and equipped with a small public library collection of materials, this demonstration service was provided, upon request, to areas composed of two or three counties without library service. Free library service was furnished for a year or more, depending upon local the circumstances. The bookmobile made stops at all rural schools, towns, and communities scattered through the entire area. Trips were made daily resulting in each place being visited once every five or six weeks.

Special Services

As an example of the effort made to assisst in the improvement of local library service, the State Library secured a $15,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation in 1948 to develop an educational 16mm film service. The service was offered on a cooperative basis to public libraries, and each month an equal portion of the total film collection was circulated.

The grant was used to purchase a basic stock of films that were shown annually to over one million people. Most of the member libraries could not by themselves afford these expensive library materials.

In 1953, this cooperative service was turned over completely to the member libraries for operation and management which eventually resulted in a legal corporation. By 1959, membership consisted of more than thirty libraries.

Federal Program For Rural Library Service

Congress passed the Library Services Act in 1956 under which Missouri began to participate late in fiscal year 1957. This Act was designed to "promote the further extension by the several states of public library services to rural areas without such services or with inadequate services."

Missouri, in 1959, had 53 counties with 693,771 population without public library service where the federl funds could be used to encourge the establishment of adequate libraries. In addition, the federal funds could also be used in areas of rural Missouri where inadequate library services did

exist. Rural libraries classified as inadequate could also participate in projects financed with federal funds.

During fiscal year 1959 the State Library used the new federal funds to equip and staff itself to carry on the administrative work of increased and improved local library service; strengthened its demonstration services with personnel, books and equipment that resulted in five new county libraries; financed three local library demonstrations to adjacent unserved counties that resulted in two new county libraries; awarded ten library school scholarships to Missourians for their eventual return to Missouri libraries; staged a series of in-service training schools for Missouri library personnel; financed the initial improved service resulting from mergers of four city libraries with county and regional libraries; and entered the planning stage for establishing a state-wide book cataloging and processing center.

The Library Services Act was amended in 1964 to include both urban and rural areas, and a larger appropriation of federal funds was made available.

Some Library Statistics In 1956

Counties with some form of tax-supported libraries	97
Counties without any tax-supported libraries	7
Total income	$10,788,727.92
Total Expenditures	$10,166,051.58
Total book stock	6,806,285
Total circulation	24,501,738
Total population of State (1960)	4,319,813
Total population served	3,799,028
Total population unserved	520,785
Buildings occupied: Owned by library	79**
Owned by city	25**
Other	7

**Several buildings were occupied jointly by both city or countyand regional library.

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY -INTERNAL ORGANIZATION IN 1965

The State Library Commission consisting of four appointed and two ex officio members were responsible for governing the State Library.

The State Librarian, appointed by the Commission, was responsible for administering State Library operations and personnel; allocation and distribution of State Aid; collection and publication of information, statistics and the Annual Report; public relations; publicity releases;

coordination of state-wide library service; communication with other state and national agencies.

Clerical assistance was provided by a bookkeeper, an administrative secretary and a printing assistant.

Serving under the State Librarian was a Director of Field Services whose responsibility included planning, organizing and supervising all out-state library promotion and consultant services, as well as the Regional Bookmobile Demonstration Service.

A Public Library Consultant was employed to direct the Bookmobile Demonstration Service and local library activities as operated under the Library Services Act.

The Acquisitions Department selected, ordered, and published lists of library materials.

The Technical Processes Department did the processing, cataloging, receiving, mending and binding work. Mailing lists and printing of lists of materials were also maintained by this department.

The Reference and Circulation Department was responsible for inter-library loans, reference service, circulation, shelving and filing, maintenance of vertical files, shipping, collection of State Library loan statistics, and direct compilation of official Missouri Publications.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE STATE LIBRARY

State Library is now a part of the Department of Higher Education, resulting from The State Omnibus Reorganization Act of 1974.